

On such occasions there were always persons anxious to pay a visit to the renowned captive. The regulation of those visits was calculated to protect Napoleon from being annoyed by the, idle curiosity of strangers, to which he professed a great aversion. Such persons as wished to wait upon him were, in the, first place, obliged to apply to the Governor, by whom their names were forwarded to Count Bertrand. This gentleman, as Grand Marshal of the household, communicated the wishes of those persons to Napoleon, and in case of a favorable reply fixed the hour for an interview.

Those visitors whom Napoleon admitted were chiefly persons of rank and distinction, travellers from distant countries, or men who had distinguished themselves in the scientific, world, and who could communicate interesting information in exchange for the gratification they received. Some of those, persons who were admitted to interviews with him have, published narratives of their conversation, and all agree in extolling the extreme grace, propriety, and appearance of benevolence manifested by Bonaparte while holding these levees, his questions were always put, with great tact, and on some subject with which the person interrogated was well acquainted, so as to induce him to bring forth any new or curious information of which he might be possessed,

Captain Basil Hall, in August, 1817, when in command of the *Lyrft*, had an interview with the Emperor, of whom he says; "Bonaparte struck me as differing considerably from the pictures and busts¹ I had seen of him. His face and figure looked much broader and more square. — larger, indeed, in every way than any representation I had met with. His corpulency, at this time universally reported to be excessive, was by no means remarkable. His flesh looked, on the contrary, firm and muscular. There was not the least trace of color in his cheeks; in fact his skin was more like marble than ordinary flesh. Not the smallest trace of a wrinkle was discernible on his brow, nor an approach to a furrow on any part of his countenance. His health and spirits, judging from

¹ One of the "In-Bt known of which in jxsrhaph the *tlm**, bust by Canova, now at ChatHworth.